

Norfolk Insider

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“Be careful where you place yard sale signs”



City of Norfolk ordinances state that temporary signs including yard sale signs cannot be in public areas including on utility poles.

“When people are packing up the remains of the garage sale, they can’t forget to also pick up their signs. According to city ordinance, the signs must be removed within 24 hours of the completion of the sale. It’s a safety issue and it also keeps our city from being cluttered with yard signs,” Miller said.

It’s understandable that people want to get word out about their garage sales. Still, City of Norfolk Police Captain Don Miller reminds people to watch where they are placing their signs advertising the event.

“We’re seeing yard sale and temporary business signs in roundabouts, on utility poles and on public right-of-ways. It’s unsafe. That’s why we have laws restricting the placement of signs around the city,” Miller said.

Section 27-323 of City of Norfolk ordinance states that a sign can’t be placed in any public right-of-way which means not in any park, terrace (the area between the sidewalk and the street), roundabout or on the grounds of any public facility. Signs cannot be placed on utility poles, traffic signal poles or attached to any existing permanent roadway signs.

Miller said all temporary signs need to be placed in the person’s front or side yard on the inside of the sidewalk or at least five feet from the street if there isn’t a sidewalk. There can be only one temporary sign per premises.

On a corner lot, the sign can’t be more than three feet high or within 25 feet of the intersection.

“Consider advertising your garage sale in ways besides using signs. If you do want to place a sign on someone’s property on the corner or on a main thoroughfare, you must have their permission to do so,” Miller said.

Fines may be assessed to those who place signs illegally. If a sign is found in a public right-of-way or in any restricted area, it may be removed.